



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLOUCESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1967

29 BRUNSWICK SQUARE
GLOUCESTER

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., BS.(Lond)., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLOUCESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Gloucester.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for 1967 on the health, environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. The report is prepared as required by the Public Health Officers Regulations 1955, and Circular 1/1968 of the Ministry of Health.

I am indebted to other officers for many particulars and especially to the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. J. S. Hopkins and the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. W. D. Harris for the sections contributed by them.

Boundary changes in the Rural District took place during the year and in the calculation of the Health Statistics regard has been had to this factor.

In general the averages for Births, Deaths, and Infantile Mortality compare favourably with the corresponding averages for the country as a whole.

Measles was the only infectious disease which occurred to any extent. The low incidence of infectious diseases is due, in large measure, to the ready acceptance of the immunisation procedures available.

Regular visits are made to food premises. Food inspection is supported by appropriate health education. These measures together with the willing co-operation of food traders and food handlers have done much to prevent outbreaks of food poisoning.

The problem of dealing effectively with complaints arising from intensive farming activities becomes more and more difficult. Statutory action was taken in one instance and in others the informal action in support of the Planning Authority was sufficient to prevent nuisance arising.

Because of the national economic situation only limited progress was possible in implementing the sewerage schemes so urgently needed in various parishes.

I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their support and my colleagues for their help throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (31.12.67)

Chairman: F. J. CHAMBERLAYNE

Vice-Chairman: E. J. PENNELS

S. G. BRIDGES	C. G. MAYO
J. C. CAIRNS TERRY	R. T. MERRETT
MRS. B. M. CASTLE	T. MORGAN
C. J. DE LISLE WELLS	MRS. J. O. PIERCY
F. J. EDWARDS	K. H. PLESTED
T. ERRINGTON	E. ROGERS
R. L. EVANS	MRS. K. M. TERRY
W. EVANS	N. E. I. THOMAS
W. G. FEAR	G. K. WARREN
A. J. GIBSON	MAJ. P. W. WELLER

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

STEPHEN KNIGHT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Charlton Kings
Urban District, Gloucester and Cheltenham Rural Districts and County
Divisional Medical Officer of Health for the North Gloucestershire
Divisional Area.

S. W. D. HARRIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health
Inspector and Petroleum Officer.

G. G. VIGGERS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.H.E., Deputy Chief Public Health
Inspector.

P. M. JONES, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.I.H.E., District Public
Health Inspector.

L. S. SCOURFIELD, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., District Public Health
Inspector.

N. J. DAVIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Additional Public Health
Inspector.

N. J. BILLINGTON, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Additional Public
Health Inspector.

D. J. ROGERS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Additional Public Health
Inspector.

P. J. C. WALKER, Student Public Health Inspector.

MISS J. E. C. MORGAN, Administrative Assistant.

MISS B. COX, Shorthand Typist/General Assistant.

F. GREENWOOD, Senior General Assistant.

W. B. NEWMAN, Rodent Operator.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres): 67,830

Population (Registrar General's Estimated Home Population mid 1967): 37,660
(This figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the District). As there was a change of boundary during the year the statistics represent the events assigned to the area within the boundaries as they existed at the date of registration of each event. To allow calculation of valid Birth and Death rates, the figure 41,870 is a weighted average of the mid year population of the area as constituted before and after the change.

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1967) according to rate books:
11,697

Rateable Value (December 31st, 1967): £1,381,951 Os. Od.

Estimated product of a penny rate (March, 1967): £5,461

General Rate 1967 - 68: 11/8d. (County Precept 9/7d.)

Less	(a)	for Domestic Hereditaments	5d. in £1
	(b)	for Mixed	" 2d. in £1
	(c)	for Commercial	" -

ADOPTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

1. New Streets (adopted 1st April, 1937).
2. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures (adopted 1st September, 1938).
3. Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in Open Air (adopted 28th August, 1950).
4. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 141, Water Supplies to occupied houses (adopted 1st January, 1957).
5. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 166, Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers (adopted 1st October, 1965).
6. The Building Regulations 1965, (adopted 1st February, 1966).
7. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 154, Registration of Hawkers of Food and their premises (adopted 1st July, 1967).

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the District, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales, and the County of Gloucester.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 4 (p.8).

TABLE 1

								Male	Female	Totals
Live Births:										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	372	338	710
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	29	55
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	398	367	765
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population										
Area Comparability factor (births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.3
Rates of local adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.03
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.10
								Male	Female	Totals
Still Births:										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	-	4
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	9
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births								..	..	12.0
Total live and still births								..	..	774
								Male	Female	Totals
Infant Deaths:										
(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age)										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	5	14
Neo-natal Deaths:										
(Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age)										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	10
Early Neo-natal Deaths:										
(Deaths of infants under 1 week of age)										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3	9

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	.. .. .	18.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	.. ..	18.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	18.0
Neo-natal mortality rate -		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births	.. .. .	13.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate -		
Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births	.. .. .	12.0
Perinatal mortality rate -		
Stillbirth and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births	.. .. .	23.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	.. .. .	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	.. .. .	Nil

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Totals
	257	200	457
Death Rate per 1000 population	.. .. .		10.9
Area Comparability Factors (Deaths)	.. .. .		1.02
Rates of local adjusted Death Rate to national rate			0.99

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1967 is 37,660 as compared with 53,610 for the previous year, a decrease of 15,950 due to the loss of territory under the boundary revision.

BIRTH RATE

There were 765 births making the Birth Rate 18.3 per 1000 population, which again compares favourably with the national average 17.2, although it is below that for the previous year. The fall is in keeping with that noted at National and County levels.

DEATH RATE

457 people died during the year; the Death Rate being 10.9 per 1000 population, somewhat below the national average 11.2.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Fourteen infants under one year of age died during the year giving an Infant Mortality of 18.0 such deaths per 1000 total live births. This rate is much the same as the national average 18.3. It will be noted that ten of the babies died in the neo-natal period, that is within one month of birth. Prematurity and congenital deformities are given as the most frequent causes of death.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths.

PERINATAL MORTALITY

Still births combined with deaths in the early neo-natal period give the perinatal mortality, valuable for purposes of comparison. The local average 23.0 compares with 22.0 for the County and 25.4 for the Country as a whole.

TABLE 2. Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates in the District for the last five years

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	19.7	20.2	20.4	19.4	18.3
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	12.0	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.9
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) (deaths of infants under 1 year)	20.4	17.5	19.5	18.2	18.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) (deaths of infants under 1 month)	18.3	12.6	8.9	12.4	13.0

TABLE 3. For Comparison, the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc. are given below

	England and Wales	County of Gloucester	Gloucester Rural District
Live Births	17.2	18.2	18.3
Still Births (per 1000 total, live and still births)	14.7	12.0	12.0
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 year)	18.3	15.0	18.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 month)	12.5	11.0	13.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week)	25.4	22.0	23.0
Death Rate (per 1000 population) ..	11.2	10.1	10.9

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1967

Table 4 gives the causes of death in the District in accordance with the abbreviated list of 36 groups of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948.

TABLE 4.

Causes of Death							Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
10.*	(Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
11.	(Malignant " lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	17	-
12.	(Malignant " breast	..	..	..	..	..	-	8
13.	(Malignant " uterus	..	..	..	..	..	-	5
14.	(Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	22	20
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	-	4
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	29	30
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	49	21
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	31	42
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	9	10
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	22	20
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	12	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	4	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	15	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	7	6
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	3	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
TOTAL							257	200

Explanatory Note.

* Neoplasm = Cancer

Cancer

TABLE 5. Death Rates from Cancer per 1000 population

	England and Wales		Gloucester Rural District	
	M	F	M	F
Cancer of the Lung ..	0.999	0.189	0.808	Nil
Other Cancer	1.531	1.842	1.4	1.7

Seventeen persons died from cancer of the lung, all of them were men. However there was no undue mortality from this cause; the local rates for all forms of cancer, being below the national average.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN

THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The examination of pathological specimens, and the bacteriological analyses of water, milk and ice-cream samples, etc., are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Gloucester Royal Hospital. (There is no charge for this work).

Chemical analyses of samples of food, water and sewage taken by this department, are examined by the City and County Analyst, Bristol.

Hospitals

Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Over, which is administered by the Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Management Committee.

Child Welfare Centres

These Centres are under the general administration of the North Gloucestershire Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

Meetings of Child Welfare Centres are held at Brockworth, Churchdown, Eastington, Frampton-on-Severn, Hucclecote and Barnwood, Innsworth, Longlevens Norton, Quedgeley, ~~Upton-St-Leonards~~, Newnham & Westbury-on-Severn. There is also a Mobile Child Welfare Centre which serves the Tirley and Maisemore areas.

These centres are most useful, nearly all mothers with babies attend. The bulk of the work falls upon the ladies of the Voluntary Committees. The community is much indebted to them for their devotion to this service.

Home Help Service

This service is organised by the County Council and is provided where the need for domestic help is supported by the family doctor. Appeals for help should be made to Mrs. P. Allen, Assistant Home Help Organiser, telephone Gloucester 21444.

Part time home helps are at work in the district.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

Under these Acts the Council have authorised the Medical Officer of Health to apply, when necessary, to the Courts for an Order for the compulsory removal, to a hospital or residential home, of aged and sick persons, living in insanitary conditions and unable to provide for themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention.

No application was made to the Court for an Order to remove any person to hospital during the year under review.

The Home Help Service is invaluable in enabling elderly people to carry on in their own homes.

Meals on Wheels

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service act as the agent of the County Welfare Department for a meals-on-wheels service in the Rural District. The financial deficit on the service is made up by equal contributions from the County Council and District Council. At present the whole of the Rural District is not covered by the service but is expected to be provided wherever there is a need.

A local voluntary organiser is responsible for each scheme. Mrs. D. Stone, W.R.V.S., Rose Cottage, Amberley, undertakes the promotion of the service as a whole.

TABLE 6. Notification of Infectious Diseases in 1967 by Age Groups

Disease	0 +	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	25 +	45 +	65 +	Age N.K.	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	3	11	29	9	2	-	-	-	55
Whooping Cough	-	4	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	11
Measles (excl. G.M.) ..	33	116	137	119	8	-	-	-	-	413
Ac. Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (non-para.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	1	-	8
Tuberculosis (meninges, etc.)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis (other) ..	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	5
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis (infective)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis (post-inf.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia (prim. or flu')	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	3	-	8
Para-typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Malaria (Contr. E. & W.) ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	34	125	152	156	19	8	3	6	-	503

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of children immunised against diphtheria during 1967.

TABLE 7.

Age at 31.12.67 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1967	1 1966	2-4 1965-63	5-14 1962-53	Under 15 Total
Primary Immunisation	131	330	42	52	555

Table of comparison showing the number of children immunised against diphtheria in 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967 and the number of births in 1967.

TABLE 8.

No. of live births 1967	Primary Immunisation				Re-inforcing Injection			
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1964	1965	1966	1967
765	1084	973	865	555	1708	2369	1511	1079

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children vaccinated against whooping cough. A triple vaccine (Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus) is used in Child Welfare Centres as a routine.

TABLE 9.

	Under 1 yr.	1 yrs.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Under 15
	1967	1966	1965-63	1962-53	Total
Primary vaccination	129	323	39	1	492

Immunisation against Tetanus

The numbers of children immunised against tetanus approximates to those for diphtheria and whooping cough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Freedom from cases of poliomyelitis in the district is due to the success of vaccination against this disease. The efforts of all concerned need to be sustained in order to maintain a high percentage of immunised persons.

Scarlet Fever

Fifty-five cases of scarlet fever were notified; twelve more than in the previous year, but the disease remained mild in character.

Whooping Cough

Only eleven cases were notified; a decrease of twenty from the previous year. The incidence of whooping cough is very low due to the general acceptance of vaccination against the disease.

Measles

Four hundred and thirteen cases were notified as compared with 390 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria

There has been no case of diphtheria in the District since 1951. This is undoubtedly due to the continued success of the campaign for immunisation against the disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases occurred in the District.

Dysentery

No case was notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

Annual Return of Incidents and Cases

General Outbreak	-	Nil
Family	"	- Nil
Sporadic Cases	-	Nil

Vaccination against Smallpox

Persons vaccinated in year ended 31st December, 1967

TABLE 10.

Under 1 yr.		1 yr.		2 - 4 yrs.		5-14 yrs.		Total	
Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.
19	-	238	-	69	2	8	13	334	15

The number of vaccinations against Smallpox represents about 50% of the number of births.

Tuberculosis

TABLE 11. This Table shows the new cases, in-transfers and deaths for Tuberculosis, for the past 21 years.

Year	Pop. of District	New & I. T. Cases	Per 1000 Pop.	Deaths	Per 1000 Pop.	Number on Register	Per 1000 Pop.
1946	31,550	53	1.7	17	0.54	176	5.6
1947	31,960	63	1.9	15	0.45	205	6.4
1948	33,540	54	1.6	21	0.62	201	6.0
1949	36,350	65	1.8	16	0.48	205	5.6
1950	35,640	52	1.5	11	0.39	207	5.7
1951	37,360	64	1.7	17	0.45	212	5.7
1952	38,370	70	1.8	6	0.15	243	6.3
1953	37,430	51	1.3	8	0.21	220	5.8
1954	39,140	65	1.6	8	0.20	235	6.0
1955	40,490	75	1.8	3	0.07	274	6.8
1956	41,770	70	1.7	3	0.07	281	6.7
1957	43,000	65	1.5	3	0.07	293	6.8
1958	42,820	50	1.2	3	0.12	293	6.8
1959	43,920	64	1.2	6	0.16	298	6.8
1960	43,350	55	1.2	2	0.05	309	6.6
1961	46,570	51	1.0	4	0.08	280	6.0
1962	48,050	31	0.7	3	0.06	267	5.5
1963	49,870	33	0.7	2	0.04	256	5.1
1964	51,040	35	0.7	1	0.02	256	5.0
1965	52,540	34	0.6	3	0.05	245	4.7
1966	53,610	22	0.4	2	0.04	243	4.6
1967	37,660	17	0.4	4	0.10	227	6.0

TABLE 12. New, In Transfer cases, Deaths and Number on the Register,
31st December, 1967

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other Forms		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
New Cases	6	2	-	-	2	4	14
In-Transfer Cases	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Deaths	2	1	-	-	1	-	4
On Register 31.12.67	104	91	-	-	10	22	227

Modern treatment of Tuberculosis is most successful as is shown by the declining death rate from this disease. However fourteen new cases occurred, evidence of many sources of infection. Keen investigation is made in each case to find the source of infection, and to trace contacts in order to prevent spread. It is by such means, together with the ready acceptance of B.C.G. vaccination and use of the Mass Radiography service, that Tuberculosis can be eradicated.

Families at Risk

The scheme agreed between the County Council and District Council for the rehabilitation of problem families living in Council houses continued to operate during the year. Where arrears of rent are such as to render the family liable to eviction the case is referred to the County Social Welfare Officer and if it is accepted the County Council guarantee 75% of the rent arrears.

One hundred and thirty-six families were investigated under the Rent Guarantee Scheme.

When family circumstances of this nature become a matter of concern, the Divisional Medical Officer of Health calls a meeting of representatives of the various social agencies so that a common effort may be made to sustain the family.

Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1952-62

Staverton Airport

In connection with the on-call customs facilities granted to Staverton Airport, the Council made arrangements for Health Control at the Airport.

Dr. H. G. Dowler, Dr. C. H. Drake, Dr. J. S. Prior and Dr. S. Knight, are appointed to act as authorized officers under Regulation 5 (a) of these Regulations.

Danger to Bathers - River Severn

Regular visits continued to be made by Officers of this Department to places along the River Severn where bathing may take place in order to ensure that warning notices and life-buoys erected in conjunction with the Parish Councils, were in good repair.

It is regretted that owing to vandalism constant vigilance is necessary to ensure prompt replacement of life-saving equipment.

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Mr. J.S. Hopkins, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Whitminster Sewerage Scheme has been completed and the design of a larger works at Frampton-on-Severn, to deal with the sewage from Whitminster, has been investigated by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The Hardwicke and Quedgeley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme and the Scheme at Tirley have also been investigated by the Ministry's Inspector. Considerable pressure has been put upon the Minister to release these schemes for construction and it is hoped that they will be released early in 1968.

The Longford re-drainage scheme, part of which is now included within the City boundaries, has been deferred by the Ministry due to the present economic situation. The list of Sewerage Schemes now under consideration has increased and the Department has been under pressure both with these and with the result that matters of sewerage are constantly under attention.

The design of the next extension to the Longford Main Drainage Works has been programmed and should be submitted to the Ministry early in 1968. Good relations have continued with the Severn River Authority both with regard to pollution and to the problems which will arise from storm water in the area.

Refuse Collection

Although the change in boundaries took place in April, the City requested that refuse collection in those areas taken over be continued by the Rural District until the City were in a position to be capable of making a collection themselves. This continued until August.

The establishment has now been reduced and re-organised to provide the usual weekly service in the District.

J. S. HOPKINS

Engineer and Surveyor

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. S. W. D. Harris, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

The work of the Department is mainly concerned with maintaining and, where possible, improving the living conditions of the public. For this purpose Local Authorities are required to administer comprehensive legislation embracing housing, the hygienic condition, preparation and sale of food, air pollution, noise control, caravan sites, pest control, etc. and the working conditions of persons employed in factories and offices.

The extent to which the continuing demand for a higher environmental standard can be met depends not only upon the Council's capacity to execute the various schemes, but also upon the availability of adequate finance during a period of financial restraint. In spite of this, however, some progress was made, and in September, Ministry Inquiries were held into the Hardwicke and Quedgeley and Tirley drainage schemes, the outcome of which was anticipated early in the New Year.

Difficulties continue to be experienced in relation to intensive farming units and in an attempt to minimise the effect on nearby residents, closer liaison is being sought with the Planning Authority. It is inevitable that food production must keep pace with the needs of a rapidly increasing population, but this should not be allowed to prejudice the health and comfort of the indigenous community. One wonders for how much longer local authorities can continue to safeguard the health of their ratepayers having regard to the shortcomings of legislation enacted over 30 years ago.

Visits and inspections carried out and general statistical information relating to the Department is presented in tabular form and matters of particular interest are amplified in the accompanying text.

I am indebted to the Council and my colleagues in other Departments, also the Gloucester Public Health Laboratory and the Public Analyst in Bristol, for their support and co-operation during the year.

A list of legislation, official circulars and reports affecting the work of the Department, which were issued during the year is given over-leaf.

S. W. D. HARRIS
Chief Public Health Inspector

LEGISLATION 1967

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

No.	385	Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations 1967
	442	Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection Grant) (Revocation) Regulations 1967
	860	Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulation 1967
	861	Canned Meat Product Regulations 1967
	862	Sausage and Other Meat Product Regulations 1967
	1119	Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations 1967
	1582	Solvents in Food Regulations 1967
	1714	Diseases of Animals (Milk Treatment) Order 1967
	1867	Margarine Regulations 1967
	1864	Labelling of Food Regulations 1967
	1865	Coffee and Coffee Product Regulations 1967
	1939	Solvents in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1967
	1866	Ice-Cream Regulations 1967

Ministry of Housing and Local Government

	1240	Removal of Refuse Regulations 1967
	1645	Building (Third Amendment) Regulations 1967

CIRCULARS

Ministry of Housing and Local Government

	6	The Building Regulations 1965: Use of self-extinguishing grades of PVC sheeting
	10	Public Health Act 1961: Building Regulations: The Agreement Board
	17	Industrial Development Act 1966: Local Government Act 1966: Rehabilitation of derelict, neglected or unsightly land. Industrial Development Act 1966: Water and Sewerage Schemes
	22	Noise: Industrial Noise
	34	Report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection
	25	Clean Air Act 1956: Supplies of Solid Smokeless Fuels
	52	Clean Air Act 1956: Grit and Dust
	53	Civic Amenities Act 1967: Parts I and II
	55	Civic Amenities Act 1967: Part III, Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles and Other Refuse
	50	Clean Air Act 1956: Chimney Heights
	60	Gypsies and Other Travellers
	64	Trade and Sewage Effluents
	66	Working Party on the Design and Construction of Underground Pipe Sewers
	69	Housing Act 1957: Slum Clearance
	70	Public Health Act 1961: Building Regulations

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

- 10 The Cheese (Amendment) Regulations 1966
- 36 Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulations 1967
- 37 Canned Meat Product Regulations 1967
- 46 Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967
- 54 Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations 1967
- 75 Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959
Approved Chemical Agents
- 80 Solvents in Food Regulations 1967

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND MEMORANDA

Advisory Committee on Pesticides and other Toxic chemicals: Report on a Review of the present safety arrangements for the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture and food storage.

Report of the Committee on the Staffing of Local Government (Chairman: G. Mallaby).

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Cmnd. 3340. Local Government in Wales.

Report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection.

Food Hygiene Codes of Practice 7. Hygiene in the operation of coin-operated vending machines.

Food Standards Committee. Report on Cream Food.

Additives and Contaminants Committee: Second Report on Cyclamates.

Food Additives and Contaminants Committee: Report on Aldrin and Dieldrin Residues in Food.

Grit and Dust: The measurement of emissions from boiler and furnace chimneys.

Report of the Working Party on Grit and Dust Emissions.

Chimney Heights. 2nd Edition of the Clean Air Act Memorandum.

Building Regulations 1965. Selected Decisions. First Series.

Gypsies and Other Travellers. A report of a study carried out in 1965 and 1966. (Ministry of Housing and Local Government).

Working Party on the Design and Construction of Underground Pipe Sewers.

(a) Second Report

(b) Notes of guidance on practical considerations in the structural design and in the construction of small-diameter sewers and drains.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

TABLE 13.

	Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Defects remedied after notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses . . .	1456	31	13	24	2
Water Supplies . . .	197	4	-	3	-
Food Premises . . .	383	39	-	28	-
Slaughterhouses . . .	1101	9	-	10	-
Milk and Dairies . . .	7	-	-	-	-
Bakehouses . . .	5	1	-	-	-
Factories . . .	66	1	-	1	-
Drainage and Sewerage	1437	52	-	46	-
Atmospheric Pollution	94	2	1	1	-
Infectious Disease . .	35	-	-	-	-
Pests . . .	157	6	-	5	-
Caravans . . .	257	11	-	9	-
Noise Abatement . . .	43	4	-	2	-
Petroleum . . .	267	12	-	9	-
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises . .	106	32	-	24	-
Hairdressers . . .	6	1	-	1	-
Health Education . . .	67	-	-	-	-
Animal Boarding Estab- lishments . . .	12	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous . . .	699	7	-	7	-
Total . . .	6395	212	14	170	2

The increase in the number of visits carried out during the year was due mainly to the pilot survey of housing, which was carried out in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This is now being followed by the survey proper, which, is, of course, a more detailed examination, and which, of necessity, will be somewhat protracted.

The number of notices served fell sharply, and it was particularly pleasing to note the improvement in so far as food premises and petroleum installations were concerned. Wherever possible results are achieved by persuasion and personal contact rather than by enforcement, and in this the Council's officers follow the generally accepted national pattern in public health. Only in intractable cases, or where the statute or urgency require it, is formal action normally recommended.

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944 - 1961

Water Act, 1945

Water Resources Act, 1963

On 1st April, 1965, the North-West Gloucestershire Water Board assumed responsibility for the supply of water throughout the Council's District. Regular consultations take place between officers of the Board and this Department on matters of mutual concern and in particular the provision of mains water to the remaining parts of the District which are supplied by wells.

In addition, Gloucestershire County Council, Frocester Court Estate and Haresfield Estate operated local systems for the supply and distribution of water to small areas of the District. Concern was expressed in the previous report as to the quantity and quality of water from the Frocester Court Estate supply and it will be noted from the next Table that the scheme for supplying mains water to the village was completed during 1967.

Complaints regarding discolouration of mains water continue to be received, particularly during the summer months. The Water Board do their best to ameliorate this condition by flushing the affected mains, but it is inevitable that complaints will continue until the long-term remedial measures are completed.

The following details which have been supplied by the North-West Gloucestershire Water Board show how effectively the Rural District Council have discharged their statutory responsibility for securing a wholesome water supply for their District.

NORTH-WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BOARD

Mains laid in Gloucester Rural District during 1967

	<u>Parish</u>			<u>Size of main</u>	<u>Length (yds.)</u>
Brockworth	6"	516
				4"	1443
				3"	995
Brookthorpe	9"	20
				4"	607
Chaceley	3"	1257
Churchdown	6"	187
				4"	1000
				3"	257
Down Hatherley	6"	18
Eastington	6"	925
				4"	400
Frocester	4"	3466
				3"	1755
Hempsted	3"	72
Hucclecote	4"	149
				3"	131
Upton-St.-Leonards		4"	354
				3"	420
Westbury-on-Severn		3"	163
Whitminster	6"	100
				3"	22
					<u>14257</u>

Lengths of mains authorised in Gloucester Rural District
but not laid at 31st December, 1967

	<u>Parish</u>			<u>Size of main</u>	<u>Length (yds.)</u>
Innsworth	6" spun iron	850
				4"	397
Brockworth	9" spun iron	150
				4"	600
				3"	721
					<u>2718</u>

Houses provided with mains water supply at 31st December, 1967

<u>Parish</u>								<u>Number</u>
Arlingham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Ashleworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Barnwood	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	541
Brockworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1945
Brookthorpe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Chaceley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Churchdown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3038
Down Hatherley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Eastington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	429
Elmore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Forthampton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Frampton-on-Severn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	423
Fretherne-with-Saul	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250
Frocester	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Hardwicke	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	279
Harescombe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Haresfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Hasfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Hempsted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	224
Highnam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155
Longford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	449
Longlevens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2846
Longney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Maisemore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138
Minsterworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Moreton Valence	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Norton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Newnham-on-Severn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	405
Quedgeley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	415
Sandhurst	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Standish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Tirley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Twigworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Upton-St.-Leonards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	525
Westbury-on-Severn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	365
Whitminster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
								<u>14113</u>

Well Water Supplies

Although the percentage of properties in the District which are not provided with a mains water supply continues to decrease, it was still found necessary to submit twenty samples of well-water for analysis. Of these, sixteen were found to be unfit for human consumption, and appropriate steps were taken to ensure that the persons affected were given suitable advice.

It is interesting to note that prejudice against mains supplies still exists, and that in many parts of the District, even where the main is available, individuals are to be found who forcibly defend their preference for their own well-water supply.

RURAL SANITATION

Cleansing of Cesspools

Once again it is gratifying to report that this service has functioned satisfactorily during the year. The Council's Contractors have been most co-operative, and in view of the number of vehicles at their disposal it has been possible to maintain a prompt and efficient service.

Under the terms of the Contract the Contractors have to arrange for the emptying of tanks and also the ultimate disposal of their contents. In adverse weather conditions, it has been difficult on occasions to find suitable disposal points locally, and this has necessitated very long hauls for the vehicles. In spite of this difficulty the service has run smoothly and very few complaints have been received, in spite of the fact that the number of loads which were required to be removed increased to almost two thousand.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Clean Air Act, 1956

Even apparently trivial complaints of atmospheric pollution frequently require many visits before problems are settled, and in no case is this more evident than that of the garden bonfire. There is no doubt that considerably discomfort and distress are caused to neighbours, quite unintentionally and unwittingly, by otherwise model citizens who see no harm in indulging in this time-honoured practice. The greatest tact and patience are required of the public health inspectors in this field and this is manifested by the comparison between the number of visits made and the number of notices served.

The Council have powers under Section 16 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, to deal with nuisance from bonfires, and at the times of the year when they are most prevalent, it has become the Council's normal practice to draw the public's attention to this by the insertion of a Public Notice in the local press.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

During the year forty-three visits were made by public health inspectors following complaints from residents.

Although most of the complaints which were received had as their source either industrial or commercial activities it has been suggested that, in the home itself, noise generated by modern domestic aids such as vacuum cleaners, dish washers, washing machines, ventilator fans etc., may have an adverse effect upon the family's health, and in particular, that of the housewife.

For many years acoustical engineers have been engaged in noise reduction programmes and research in factories and offices, and, more topically in relation to traffic noise. In domestic kitchens however, modern hygienic practice, manifested by the growing predominance of stainless steel and smooth plastic surfaces results in the magnification of noise rather than in its suppression. The non-absorbent materials used, so effective in improving hygiene, have a contrary effect in regard to noise. It remains to be seen whether the large commercial undertakings, in whose hands the practical solutions ultimately lie, will consider a research programme justifiable in terms of expenditure and return.

Traffic noise has been a constantly growing problem and legislation is likely to be enacted to take effect some time in 1968.

It is expected that there will be some modifications to the recommendations made in the 1963 report of the Wilson Committee on the Problem of Noise, and that the permitted maximum noise limits will be up to 90 decibels for motor cycles, depending upon their size, 92 decibels for heavy vehicles, 87 decibels for passenger cars, and 88 decibels for light goods vehicles.

The following table, reprinted from the DAWE Digest, published by DAWE Instruments Limited, gives an indication of comparative noise from various sources. While the table is extremely useful as a guide, it must be realised that only rarely do the complex conditions found in practice allow straightforward comparisons to be made.

Noise	Decibels	Sound Pressure Dyne/Cm ²	Typical Examples
Painful	120	200	
Deafening	110		Jet aircraft at 500 ft. Inside boiler making factory Near pneumatic drill Motor horn at 20 ft.
	100	20	
Very loud	90		Inside tube train Busy street Workshop Small car at 24 ft.
	80	2	
Loud	70		Noisy office Inside small car Large shop Radio set - full volume
	60	0.2	
Moderate	50		Normal conversation at 3 ft. Urban house Quiet office Rural house
	40	0.02	
Faint	30		Public library Quiet conversation Rustle of paper Whisper
	20	0.002	
Very faint	10		Quiet church Still night in the country Sound-proof room Threshold of hearing
	1	0.0002	

CARAVAN SITES

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The phased "run-down" of a large caravan site in the District continued during the year. It had been expected that the number of caravan dwellers being displaced might impose a serious strain upon the Council's ability to rehouse families in urgent need, but for various reasons this situation did not arise. Adaptation of the site for building purposes did not proceed at the expected rate, mainly because of national conditions, and consequently no great difficulty was experienced in absorbing families leaving the site.

The provision of sites for the accommodation of gypsies and other travellers was considered at the request of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, at a Conference of Local Authorities held at the Shire Hall, Gloucester in September. It was generally agreed that a comprehensive policy, taking account of conditions over a large area, rather than in individual Districts, should be formulated. This opinion, together with relevant proposals, was sent to the Minister by the County Council, and in October, information on the same subject was sought by the Rural District Councils Association.

An indication was given that it was proposed to introduce legislation in 1968, which would place a statutory duty upon certain authorities to provide an adequate number of camps for gypsies and others, and the Association of Public Health Inspectors announced that they were to hold a Conference in London early in 1968. The Council considered this announcement and in view of the importance of the subject decided to be represented at the Conference. No further information became available during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Department's functions under the above-mentioned legislation have again been carried out efficiently and without having to resort to formal proceedings.

All of the Council's depots, sewerage systems and other open spaces have been inspected during the year under review. Where infestations have been found the necessary treatments have been undertaken and continued until negative results were obtained from baiting.

In view of its safe nature, as far as humans and domestic pets are concerned, and the satisfactory results obtained, "warfarin" continues to be the principal rodenticide used by the Council's operatives for the control of rats and mice.

During the year "warfarin" resistance was reported for the first time in Gloucestershire, but there was no evidence of this in the Council's District.

TABLE 14.

	Inspections	Treatment
Private dwellings	1623	249
Council houses and hutments ..	--	--
Farms	373	92
Business Premises	198	40
Sewers	342	4
Schools	81	17
Hospitals	--	--
Sewage Works and Depots	166	25
Other open spaces	--	--
Total	2783	427

TABLE 15.

Sewers	Action Taken	Result
Brockworth	Treatment	Satisfactory
Churchdown	Test Baited	No Treatment Required
Frampton-on-Severn	" "	" " "
Fretherne-with-Saul	" "	" " "
Hucclecote	" "	" " "
Innsworth	" "	" " "
Maisemore	" "	" " "
Newnham-on-Severn	Treatment	Satisfactory
Upton-St.-Leonards	Test Baited	No Treatment Required
Westbury-on-Severn	Treatment	Satisfactory

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-52

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

TABLE 16.

Type of Business	Total Number	No. of Inspections	Number fitted to comply with Reg.16	Regulation 19		Remarks
				No. to which Reg.19 applies	Number fitted to comply	
Cafes and Canteens	72	71	72	72	72	This includes school canteens.
Grocery & Provision Shops	93	203	85	79	73	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors	78	85	78	--	--	Registered under S.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Most Ice Cream sold in the district is pre-packed.
Butchers shops	12	30	12	12	12	Six shops registered under S.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Sausage making.
Fishmongers	3	12	3	3	3	This includes fried and wet fish.
Bakehouses	2	5	2	2	2	These are small and only supply a small proportion of the population.
Licensed Premises	49	59	49	49	49	The breweries are very co-operative in carrying out improvements recommended.
Dairies	4	7	4	--	--	
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	3	2	3	3	3	Inspected under Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960
Total	316	474	308	299	285	

Food Hygiene

Towards the end of the year a routine food inspection visit made by one of the Public Health Inspectors, led to the discovery of a food importing business operated from a private house in the Council's area .

The business consisted essentially of the importation of frozen lobsters direct from the West Indies, with the object of selling them mainly to the local catering trade.

Unfortunately, the bacteriological condition of the lobsters was most unsatisfactory, and indicated that they had been subjected to faecal contamination during or after processing.

Immediate action was taken to inform other local authorities thought to be involved, and a comprehensive scheme of sampling and examination was put into operation.

After consultation with the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Importers, it was concluded that no satisfactory and feasible method of re-processing the lobsters could be adopted, and consequently about £500 worth of stock was surrendered for destruction.

In view of the obvious risks of widespread food poisoning, the Importers decided to discontinue this line of business. Furthermore, to avoid any recurrence of the circumstances either in this District or elsewhere, the Department notified the Ministry of Health in the hope that the matter would be taken up with the West Indies' Administration.

This incident was an unusual one, but it's occurrence makes one acutely conscious of the large burden which will inevitably fall upon inland authorities for the inspection of imported food, when "containerisation" * becomes regular practice.

Note: * "Containerisation" - The use of bulk containers which are sealed in the Country of origin, and remain unopened until final delivery

Ice Cream

During 1967, ten licences were issued under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice cream.

Anthrax Order, 1938

No cases of anthrax were confirmed during the year.

Slaughterhouses

The following slaughterhouses were licensed in 1967.

1. Churchdown, Chapel Hay
2. Eastington, Alkerton Place
3. Minsterworth, The Flatt
4. Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Brickhouse Farm
5. Hempsted, Sudmeadow Road

As a result of boundary changes the slaughterhouse at Hempsted was transferred from the Council's control. However, the demands on the Department's time in terms of visits required, both during and after office hours, were only slightly reduced.

This was due in some degree to the more stringent inspection conditions laid down in the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, and to the opening of a new slaughterhouse at Eastington in replacement of the very inadequate existing one.

The loss of the Hempsted slaughterhouse, which was, of course, conveniently accessible from the office, did not affect materially the overtime meat inspection problem. Comparatively little slaughtering was done there outside normal office hours, which is in direct contrast to the pattern established over many years in the small, widely scattered, privately owned slaughterhouses in the District. In these it is not economical for slaughterhouse operators to employ full-time staffs, because of the small throughput, and slaughtering is done mainly at evenings and weekends. This in turn involves the public health inspectors in unavoidable overtime work, and it does not appear that this trend is likely to change .

TABLE 17. Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known)	1757	84	169	9039	5001	16050
Number inspected	1757	84	169	9039	5001	16050
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis and</u>						
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses						
condemned	2	--	3	6	9	20
Carcasses of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned	266	70	4	368	498	1206
Percentage of the number						
inspected affected with						
disease other than						
tuberculosis and						
cysticercosis	15.25%	83.33%	4.14%	4.14%	10.14%	7.64%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses						
condemned	---	---	--	--	--	--
Carcasses of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned	1	---	--	--	20	21
Percentage of the number						
inspected affected with						
tuberculosis	0.06%	---	--	--	0.40%	0.13%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>						
Carcasses of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned	4	---	--	--	--	4
Carcasses submitted to						
treatment by refrigera-						
tion	4	---	--	--	--	4
Generalised and totally						
condemned	---	---	--	---	--	-

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for:-

(i)	All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	10163 lb.
(ii)	Tuberculosis	210 lb.
(iii)	Cysticercosis	93 lb.
	Total	10466 lb.

(or 4 tons 13 cwt. 50 lb.)

Cysticercus Bovis

Regional Infestation

							<u>Number infested</u>
External masseter muscles	..	..	..	..	..		3
Internal masseter muscles	..	..	..	..	..		-
Heart musculature	..	..	..	..	..		1
Other sites	..	..	..	..	..		-

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

TABLE 18.

Article	Non-Preserved lb.	Preserved, tinned, etc. lb.
Meat	10466	22
Flour and Cereals ..	-	--
Vegetables	-	96
Fish	612	158
Cheese & Fats	-	--
Fruit	-	217
Cream & Evaporated Milk	-	20
Totals	11078 lbs.	513 lbs.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Health Education

The Department has again been active in the field of health education and several visits have been made to organised groups to deliver lectures on various aspects of environmental health.

Interested organisations are contacted at regular intervals and details supplied relating to the subject matter upon which talks and lectures are available. From requests received, it is apparent that people are becoming more interested in the environment in which they live, and are alive to the threat to health which is associated with high noise levels, atmospheric pollution and many other facets of everyday life which they tended, until recent years, to accept.

It is felt that this is a useful service for many reasons, not the least of which is that it enables members of the public to meet the public health inspector and to put their problems to him. The passage of information is therefore in two directions and this is of considerable value as knowledge gleaned from this source is put to good use in utilising the resources of the department to the best advantage.

Members of the department are available at all times to attend meetings of recognised organisations and whilst it is desirable that reasonable notice be given, lectures and demonstrations can frequently be arranged at short notice.

It is considered that this service is appreciated by members of the public as it is not unusual to have several requests to talk to the same organisation on different subjects.

NEW HOUSING, 1967

TABLE 19.

Number of dwellings erected during the year:

By the Council:

Churchdown (Grove Road)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Westbury-on-Severn (Westbury Court Gardens)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Whitminster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

By Private Enterprise 178

Total .. . 261

Number of dwellings under construction at 31st December, 1967:

By the Council:

Upton-St.-Leonards (Ash Path)	53
-------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

By Private Enterprise 240

Total .. . 293

Number of Council Houses sold to tenants in 1967: NIL

Number of dwellings owned by the Council at 31st December, 1967: 2,198

Number of applicants on Council's Housing List:

At 31st December, 1966 681

At 31st December, 1967 494

Housing Progress:

Number of dwellings erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1967:

By the Council and local housing society 2294

By Private Enterprise 6204

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Housing in Clearance Areas and

Unfit Houses Elsewhere

TABLE 20.

Houses Demolished During the Year:

Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

Unfit Houses Closed During the Year:

Number of houses closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Unfit Houses made fit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23

The figures above relate, of course, to formal action under the provisions of the Housing and Public Health Acts, and represent only a small part of the work which was undertaken by the Department during the year.

In all, 1,456 housing visits were made by the public health inspectors in 1967, more than double the figure for the previous year. A large number of these visits were made during the course of the pilot housing survey already referred to following Table 13, and the early indications arising out of this preliminary investigation are that previous estimates of the condition of the District's housing stock have been somewhat optimistic. This follows the national pattern indicated in the Ministry's report on older properties, and it remains to be seen whether the results of the detailed survey which is to be commenced early in 1968 will confirm these findings.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937 to 1961

PART I

TABLE 21. A. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	No. of premises in Register	No. of In-spections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	80	61	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers)	49	5	-	-
Total	136	66	-	-

TABLE 22. B. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases where defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M.I.	by H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ..	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937 to 1961

PART VIII

OUTWORK

No Outworkers were listed in the District during 1967.

Factories Act inspections are combined where possible with visits under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Petroleum Regulations etc.,.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE 24.

							Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Retail Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Wholesale shops, warehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	--
Catering establishments open to the public canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fuel storage depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	106

The working conditions of industrial workers have been controlled by the Factories Acts for many years. This control did not apply to persons working in offices, shops and similar premises, who comprised a substantial part of the nation's working population. Local Authorities are required to administer much of the above-mentioned Act of which parts came into force on the 1st May 1964, and the remainder on the 1st August 1964. In addition to the control of cleanliness, temperature, lighting, ventilation, and washing arrangements, the Act also lays upon local authorities responsibilities for investigating and dealing with accidents arising on these premises.

Responsibility for safety is a new departure for local authorities and no accidents were reported during the year.

Advice was given during routine inspections of premises on the lighting of work areas. It had been hoped that by this time guidance as to lighting standards would have been given in the form of Regulations, but the Minister has been so far unable to arrive at a universally acceptable standard. In the meantime advice continues to be based on the Code evolved by the Illuminating Engineering Society of Great Britain.

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION

With the continuing increase in the number of motor vehicles using the roads, the sale of petroleum rises year by year. Many of the garages and filling stations, particularly those situated on the main "through routes" have increased their storage capacity within recent years to cater for this need. It would seem that the needs of the motorist, in this respect, are being catered for adequately at the present time, as no new tanks were installed in the year under review.

The emphasis, at filling stations, is now being concentrated upon alternative means of vending. In order to obtain the maximum use from the tanks installed on the premises. A comparatively recent innovation is the "Blender Pump" which permits a selection of petrol grades to be dispensed from one pump. Further enquiries have been received from Petrol Companies, concerning the installation of "self service" petrol pumps and visits have been made by officers of the Department to other authorities to see these installations in use and to assess the dangers involved and the best means of combating them. There can be no doubt that the self service dispensing of petroleum is here to stay and it would be naive to assume that this method of vending can be prohibited. It must be recognised however, that there are inherent dangers present where members of the public are allowed access to such a dangerous commodity, and stringent conditions must be imposed to ensure maximum safety.

The fire fighting facilities at a large bulk storage depot gave cause for some concern, but following meetings with representatives of the Gloucestershire Fire Service and the Company concerned, steps are being taken to bring about an improvement.

No accidents connected with the handling of petroleum spirit were reported during the year.

The number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit during 1967 was 103 and this represented a total storage capacity in excess of $2\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons.

S. W. D. Harris

Chief Public Health Inspector.

